

## West Lafayette Fire Department October 2011

### ISO Rating Improves to 4

In May of this year ISO (Insurance Services Office) completed their periodic onsite reassessment of the fire protection provided to West Lafayette and in October the final results were received. Fire protection in West Lafayette has always been good however; this analysis concluded that the fire protection has improved significantly compared to their previous analysis. The rating made an uncommon jump of improving two classes. West Lafayette's fire protection is now classified as a 4 whereas the prior rating was a 6. The best possible rating recognized by ISO is a "1" while a "10" is given to a community whose protection capabilities do not meet minimum standards. To achieve a rating of 1 is cost prohibitive for most communities and, according to ISO published data, in Indiana there are no communities with a fire protection rating of 1. Similarly, a classification rating of 4 places West Lafayette among the top seven percent of communities throughout the State with regard to fire protection.

Notable strengths documented in the ISO report include the distribution of fire stations and fire trucks throughout West Lafayette. Having the temporary fire station #3 operational along with the planning and progress made on turning this into a permanent station is an important factor in our rating. The new fire engine that responds from Station 3 is important. And, while the aerial fire truck responds from Station 2 rather than Station 3, having an aerial truck within the City limits is a key component of our rating. These three components; Station 3, Engine 3, and the aerial truck, add approximately ten points to our grade and ten points are the difference between one grade and the next. In our case, ten points are the difference between a rating of 5 and our better rating of a 4.

The quality of all our trucks and equipment, the specifications of the trucks, and the maintenance of them rated high. The availability and location of fire hydrants was assessed as was the quantity of water available at selected test sites. The water supply infrastructure and its flow capacity were rated notably high.

The roots of ISO go back a century and, as such, the ISO rating is a commonly recognized general indicator of available fire protection. If one's insurance company relies upon the ISO rating in their particular community then a lower score may result in a lower premium. This premium reduction is particularly applicable to business. The new West Lafayette rating is effective beginning December 1, 2011.

### Fire Prevention Week and Change your Battery

October 9-15 was Fire Prevention Week. Inspector Lancaster and most other members of WLFD assisted with several events including the annual elementary school fire safety show, station open houses, and cooperatively supporting the Farmers Market with firefighters distributing safety materials and giving tours of the fire truck. The semi-annual day light savings time adjustment is a reminder to, "change your clock, change your battery" in smoke alarms.

Chief Drew